1: Meek E, G-5 (1925-1930) 1931
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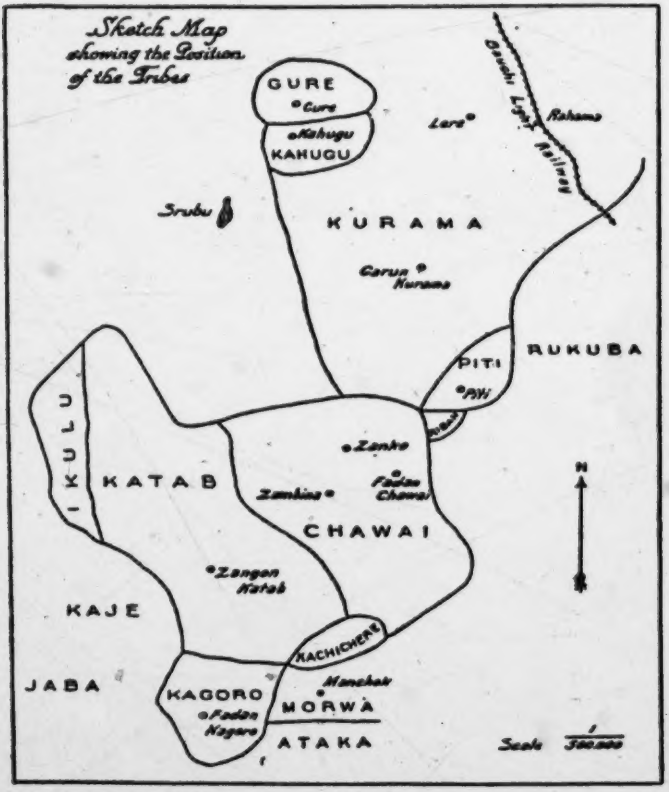
without reference to their effect on fellow-groups in the neighbouring province. To this reference will be made later.

Geography.—The physical character of the country varies considerably. The Katab district may be described generally as undulating, the Morwa as a flat, fertile plain, the Ataka as



hilly, and the Kagoro as a plain flanked by ranges of hills, the most beautiful, perhaps, in the whole of Nigeria. These hills rise to form the plateau from which in comparatively recent times the Kagoro and Ataka descended to their present habitat. The plain country is open savannah with few large trees. It is fairly well watered, the rainfall, at a computation, averaging

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anything from 45–60 inches. The attached map indicates the relative position of the various tribes.

History.—Prior to the establishment of the Fulani-Beri-Beri régime in the early days of the nineteenth century, the locality we are considering had fallen in varying degrees under the influence of the Habe rulers of Zaria, or of their representatives and allies, such as the Chiefs of Kauru, Karigi, and Kajuru. The Katab were certainly to some extent subservient to Kauru, and the Morwa and Kaje to Zaria; while the Kamantan and probably also the warlike Kagoro seem to have paid tribute to Kajuru. The conquest of Zaria by Mallam Musa, and the establishment of Mallam Usuman at Jemaa at the beginning of last century merely meant a change of masters for the majority of these tribes. The Kagoro, however, stoutly resisted the claims of Jemaa to anything but a nominal suzerainty. They suffered heavily on more than one occasion in their attempts, ultimately successful, to maintain the independence which they still enjoy.

Language.—A schedule of words and phrases of the Katab language is attached. This language has been provisionally included, on grounds of vocabulary, in the Nigerian Semi-Bantu group of the Middle Sudanic Zone (see *Northern Tribes of Nigeria*, vol. ii, p. 137). It approximates in many respects to the Semi-Bantu type, but as the prefix system is very much less developed than in the typical Semi-Bantu languages such as Kurama or Ikulu, the Katab and allied languages should, in my opinion, form a separate group of the Middle Zone. It will be observed that although some plurals are formed by prefix change others are formed by a change of suffix. It is not possible to say whether the language now spoken by the Katab was their original tongue or not. If the tribe came, as stated, from the North, it is unlikely that they spoke a language identical with that of their present neighbours, the Morwa, Ataka, Kachichere, and Kagoro. Uniformity of language is only attained and maintained by continuous social contact. All that we can say is that as a result of proximity and intermarriage in recent times all these tribes have come to use a common tongue.

Tribal Nomenclature.—The Katab call themselves the Tyap (the *t* being palatalized). The second syllable of Katab no doubt represents the word by which the tribe call themselves.